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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO INDIANTOWN GAP

UNCLAS STATE 124723

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 124723 ACTION CG FT CHAFFEE ETD 29 MAY

QTE

UNCLAS STATE 124723

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: UNHCR STARTS REPATRIATION PROCESS OF VIETNAMESE

1. THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, NEW YORK:

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RETURN OF ALL V
ETNAMESE WISHING TO GO BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY.
THE REQUEST CALLED ON THE UNHCR TO QUOTE RENDER ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE, END QUOTE FOR THE RETURN OF THE VIETNAMESE WHO LEFT THEIR COUNTRY AND STATES: QUOTE THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET-NAM CONSIDERS THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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REFUGEES IS PARTICULARLY QUALIFIED FOR THIS TASK WHICH FALLS WITHIN HIS COMPETENCE END QUOTE AND REQUESTS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER QUOTE TO CONTACT THE COUNTRIES WHERE THESE VIETNAMESE ARE AT PRESENT STAYING IN ORDER TO PROMOTE

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THE PROCESS OF REPATRIATION. END QUOTE

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, STATED:
QUOTE BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION CAN
BE THE HAPPIEST OF SOLUTIONS, THTUGH IT IS SELDOM THE

EASIEST. IT DEPENDS ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF ALL CONCERNED.
THIS REQUEST FROM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, EXPRESSING
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HAVE THEIR CITIZENS RETURN, REPRE-
SENTS THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP. END QUOTE.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WENT ON: QUOTE I WOULD LIKE TO
EXPRESS A NOTE OF CAUTION THAT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL WILL NOT
BE FOUND OVERNIGHT. UNLIKE MANY SITUATIONS THAT MY OFFICE
HAS FACED TN THE PAST, THIS WAS NOT A MASS EXODUS ACROSS A
FRONTIER TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. THE VIETNAMESE SITUA-
TION IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX. DIFFERENT GROUPS IN DIFFERENT
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE INVOLVED AND IT WILL TAKE TIME TO SORT
IT OUT. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT WHILE
THESE OPERATIONS MIGHT BEGIN SLOWLY, THEY GAIN MOMENTUM
AS THE RETURN BEGINS.

THE MODALITIES OF THE OPERATION ARE CURRENTLY BEGIN WORKED
OUT. THOSE WISHING TO RETURN ARE BEING ASKED TO FILL OUT
A UNHCR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FORWARDING TO THE SOUTH VIET-
NAMESE AUTHORITIES.

DAVID ARNOLD IS ARRIVING IN CAMP CHAFFEE ON MAY 29 AS
THE UNHCR LIAISON OFFICER. HE WILL BE ESTABLISHING THE
PROCEDURES TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE CAMP. THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS WILL BE FACILITATING AND SUPPORTING HIS ROLE. END
QUOTE. INGERSOLL UNQTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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